

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 14, and 16-31 are pending. Claims 2, 13, 15 and 32 are canceled.

1. Claims 4 and 25 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 4 and 25 have been amended to cure the informalities as suggested by the Examiner.

2. Claims 16-25, 27, 29 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claim 29 has been amended. The amendment is supported by the description at the third paragraph of page 30 of the specification as filed. Applicants believe the 112 issue is now resolved.

3. Claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vincent et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,841,591) in view of Idogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,965,634) and Matsuoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,074,796). Claims 21-23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vincent et al. in view of Idogawa et al. and Matsuoka et al., and further in view of Nakamura et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0195274). Claims 16-20, 24, 28, and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ninomiya et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0055115) in view of Idogawa et al. and Matsuoka et al. Finally, claims 21-23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ninomiya et al. in view of Idogawa et al. and Matsuoka et al., and further in view of Nakamura et al.

Claims 25 and 32 have not been rejected by any of the references. Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 32 -- namely, "wherein a peak particle diameter of the colored particles is at most 50 nm." In turn, claim 32 has been canceled. Claim 28 has been amended to include this limitation as well. The cited references, in particular, the primary

references Vincent et al. or Ninomiya et al. do not teach or suggest this peak particle condition. For example, the particle size of Example 1 of Vincent et al. is 170 nm. The particle size of Examples 1 and 2 of Ninomiya et al. are 0.20 μm and 0.24 μm , respectively. These are not peak particle diameters; regardless, the values are three times or higher, which is significantly different.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all the claims are in condition for allowance. Removal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 5, 2006

Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Facsimile (415) 393-9887
Telephone (415) 954-0323


Cameron K. Kerrigan
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,826